PRAYERS

Proper for the

Time of an INDULGENCE.

The former of these Prayers may be used for some Days before the Confession and Communion; by way of settling in the Soul that penitential Spirit, which is the most necessary Condition of all, for receiving the Benefit of the Indulgence. The latter may be proper to be said on the Day of the Communion: as it is directed for the usual Intentions; for which the Faithful ought to offer up their Prayers, in order to the gaining of the Indulgence.

A PRAYER

Of a penitent sinner for the remission of his sins.

O Almighty and everlasting God, who hast created me to thy own image and likeness, and redeemed me by the precious blood of thy Son: who hast thought on me, and loved me from all eternity; and out of pure love prepared a heaven for me; with all the necessary means to bring me thither: who hast borne with me, for so long a time, in my repeated offences and treasons against thee; hast still continued, with infinite goodness and mercy, to call, to invite, to press me to return to thee; notwithstanding all my monstrous ingratitude to thee, and my contempt of all thy graces. Behold I now desire, with my whole heart, to quit these husks of swine which have kept

me ſo long at a diſtance from thy houſe, my true home; and to come back to thee: to obey the ſummons which thou haſt now been pleaſed to ſend me; and to confeſs, and deteſt all my ſins, in thy preſence; in hopes of finding mercy at this time of mercy.

I deſire now to come before thee, though infinitely unworthy, in the ſpirit of humility, and with a contrite heart; and to make at thy feet a general confeſſion of all my ſins. I acknowledge that from my firſt coming to the uſe of reaſon, to this very hour, my whole life has been nothing but ſin and miſery. Alas! I loſt thee, I turned my back upon thee, I ſhamefully preferred worthleſs toys before thee, even from the very time I was firſt capable of knowing and loving thee! I have very ſeldom thought of thee: I have daily and hourly many ways broken thy commandments. Good God! what muſt then become of this poor wretch in the day of thy judgment: this wretch whoſe known and unknown ſins are without number; and who has done ſo very little good, to put in the ſcales to counter-balance ſo much evil?

Muſt I then deſpair of thy mercy? muſt I give up the cauſe, and abandon myſelf to ſatan, ſin and hell? No, my God; may thy infinite goodneſs forbid, I ſhould fall into that bottomleſs pit, where none ſhall ever confeſs to thee. My iniquities are great, it is true: but thy goodneſs, thy mercy, thy power is ſtill greater. Thou haſt declared, it is not thy will the ſinner ſhould periſh; but that he

ſhould

ſhould be converted and live: Thou haſt declared, there is more joy in thy heavenly court over one penitent ſinner, than over ninety-nine juſt: Thy Son has ſhed his blood for me, to purchaſe for me a full forgiveneſs of all my ſins. Here is my Hope: this mercy I lay hold on; and nothing ſhall make me quit my hold. I know the worſt of ſinners have been cleanſed from all their filth, in this ſovereign bath. Should my caſe be even worſe than the worſt of theirs; the mercy and grace of my God, and the virtue of the precious blood of my Redeemer is abundantly ſufficient, and will appear the more illuſtrious in my cure.

O infinite goodneſs, who haſt endured me for ſo many Years, ſince I firſt fell from thee by ſin: who haſt kept me all this while from falling into hell; and haſt continually cheriſhed me with innumerable favours, and graces: behold me now proſtrate at thy feet, accuſing myſelf of my crimes, and imploring thy mercy. I am that prodigal child, that have gone away into a far country from thee, and have ſquandered away all the ſubſtance thou gaveſt me; I have made myſelf a ſlave to the devil, who has ſet me to feed his ſwine, even my own brutiſh paſſions, and ſenſual inclinations; I have ſought, but ſought, alas! in vain, to ſatisfy my craving appetite with their huſks: but now being wearied with my own evil ways, I come back to thee. I acknowledge myſelf unworthy to be received in the quality of thy child; all I crave is thy mercy in the forgiveneſs of my manifold treaſons: I dare not lift up my eyes

to thee! I dare not ask for the meaneſt place in thy family. I find myſelf quite loaded, and oppreſſed, with the enormous weight of my ſins. If I conſider my own deſerts, I can look for nothing but hell; which I have deſerved a thouſand and a thouſand times. I now hate and deteſt my evil ways; I abhor myſelf for having been ſo wicked and ungrateful to thee. I have even crucified thy Son, my divine lover, over and over again, by my ſins. But, O thou fountain of mercy, have pity and compaſſion on this miſerable wretch. Look not upon my ſins, but upon the bowels of thy tender mercy, and the merits of my Redeemer. Look upon the face of thy Chriſt; and upon all he has done and ſuffered for poor ſinners. O mercy, mercy, mercy, through that blood which he ſhed for me in his agony in the garden of Gethſemani; through that blood he ſhed for me, when he was rent and torn with ſcourges, and crowned with thorns; through that blood he ſhed for me upon the croſs. Grant this mercy, which he then aſked for me, when he was bleeding and dying for me; and which he now implores ſitting at thy right hand, where he is ſtill the advocate of ſinners. Hear alſo the prayers of thy holy church, ſpread throughout the whole earth, which ſhe now offers in his name, and through his merits, imploring thy mercy at this time, for all her children, of which I am the moſt unworthy. Hear the prayers of the bleſſed Virgin, and of the whole church of heaven, whom I humbly beſeech to be joint petitioners with the church upon earth,

to obtain mercy for me and all poor ſinners: through the ſame Jeſus Chriſt thy Son.

And turning myſelf to thee, my deareſt Jeſus, my Redeemer, and my Advocate, the great high prieſt of God and man, the paſtor and biſhop of our ſouls, I beg of thee, to whom all power is given in heaven and earth, pardon, abſolution, and full remiſſion of all my ſins. I am heartily ſorry for all my offences: I deſire to lay them all down at thy feet, to be cancelled by thy precious blood: I wiſh with all my ſoul I had never offended thy infinite goodneſs: I wiſh I could waſh thy feet, like Magdalen, with penitential tears. O that I could worthily bewail my ſins even with tears of blood. I reſolve by thy grace rather to die, than to commit the like any more. I reſolve to make the beſt ſatisfaction I am able, by bringing forth worthy fruits of penance. O diſcharge me this once from the diſmal load of the guilt of my crimes! O releaſe all the bands that may keep my ſoul from thee, and thy heavenly kingdom; and then, as to this life, do with me what thou pleaſeſt. I willingly accept from thy hands whatever croſſes or ſufferings thou ſhalt ſend: I will dedicate the remainder of my days to thee: daily to bewail my ſins, and daily to preſent my heart to thee. I will make what amends I can for all my paſt offences, by a life of penance, and a life of love. I renounce from this moment, and for ever, the world, the fleſh, and the devil, and all their ſuggeſtions, vanities and concupiſcences: and I fully determine to be for ever thine. O cleanſe my ſoul from all my

paſt abominations: and let nothing henceforward, either in life or death, ever more ſeparate me from thee; who with the Father, and the Holy Ghoſt, liveſt and reigneſt, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The penitent may alſo here recite for the ſame intention the Pſalm Miſerere: *or other devout prayers and acts of contrition, with which he finds himſelf moſt affected.*

A PRAYER

For the whole ſtate of Chriſt's church upon earth, and all the intentions of the Indulgence.

O Eternal Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, Creator of all things, viſible and inviſible, Source of all our good; infinitely good in thyſelf, and infinitely gracious, bountiful and good to us: Behold we thy poor ſervants, the work of thy hands, redeemed by the blood of thy only Son, come, in anſwer to his ſummons by his Vicegerent, to preſent ourſelves, as humble petitioners, before the throne of thy mercy: we come all in a body, at this time, even all thy people upon earth; and we come in communion with all thy church in heaven, hoping to be aſſiſted by their prayers and merits; and with Jeſus Chriſt at our head, our High prieſt and Mediator, in whoſe precious blood we put all our truſt. We proſtrate ourſelves here before thee, and we moſt humbly beſeech thee to *ſanctify thy* own moſt holy *name*, by

ſanctifying

ſanctifying and exalting *thy* holy catholick church throughout the whole world. O eternal King, who haſt ſent thy only Son down from thy throne above, into this earth of ours, to eſtabliſh a kingdom, here amongſt us, from whence we might hereafter be tranſlated to thy eternal kingdom: look down, we beſeech thee, upon this kingdom of thy Son, propagate it through all nations, and through all hearts. Sanctify it in all truth; maintain it in peace, unity, and holineſs. Give to it Saints for its rulers, its chief Paſtor, and all its other prelates; enlighten them all with heavenly wiſdom, and make them all men according to thy own heart. Give thy grace and bleſſing to all the clergy; and ſend amongſt them that heavenly fire, which thy Son came to *caſt on the earth*, and which he ſo earneſtly deſired ſhould *be enkindled*. Aſſiſt and protect all apoſtolical miſſionaries, that they may zealouſly and effectually promote thy glory, and the ſalvation of ſouls redeemed by the blood of thy Son. Sanctify all religious men and women of all orders: give them the grace to ſerve thee with all perfection according to the ſpirit of their inſtitute, and to ſhine like lights to the reſt of the faithful. Have mercy on all chriſtian princes; grant them thoſe lights and graces that are neceſſary for the perfect diſcharge of their duty to thee and to their ſubjects; that they may be true ſervants of thee the King of kings, true fathers to their people, and nurſing fathers to thy church. Have mercy on all magiſtrates and men in power; that they may all fear thee, love thee, and ſerve

thee; and ever remember that they are thy deputies, and miniſters of thy juſtice. Have mercy on all thy people throughout the world; and give thy bleſſing to thy inheritance: remember thy congregation, which thou haſt poſſeſſed from the beginning; and give that grace to all thy children here upon earth, that they may do thy holy will in all things, even as the bleſſed do in heaven.

Extend thy mercy alſo to all poor infidels, that ſit in darkneſs and in the ſhadow of death: to all thoſe nations that know not thee, and that have not yet received the faith and law of thy Son their Saviour; to all Pagans, Mahometans, and Jews. Remember, O Lord, that all theſe poor ſouls are made after thy own image and likeneſs, and redeemed by the blood of thy Son: O let not ſatan any longer exerciſe his tyranny over theſe thy creatures, to the great diſhonour of thy name. Let not the precious blood of thy Son be ſhed for them in vain. Send among them zealous preachers and apoſtolick labourers, endued with the like graces and gifts as thy apoſtles were, and bleſs them with the like ſucceſs, for the glory of thy name; that all theſe poor ſouls may be brought to know thee, love thee, and ſerve thee here in thy church; and bleſs thee hereafter for all eternity.

Look down alſo with an eye of pity and compaſſion on all thoſe deluded ſouls, who under the name of chriſtians, have gone away from the paths of truth and unity, and from the one fold of the one ſhepherd, thy only

Son

Son Jeſus Chriſt, into the by-paths of error and ſchiſm. O bring them back to thee and to thy church. Diſpel their darkneſs by thy heavenly light, take off the veil from before their eyes, with which the common enemy has blindfolded them: let them ſee how they have been miſled by miſapprehenſions and miſrepreſentations. Remove the prejudices of their education: take away from them the ſpirit of obſtinacy, pride, and ſelf-conceit. Give them an humble and docile heart. Give them a ſtrong deſire of finding out thy truth, and a ſtrong grace to enable them to embrace it, in ſpite of all the oppoſition of the world, the fleſh, and the devil. For why ſhould theſe poor ſouls periſh, for which Chriſt died? why ſhould ſatan any longer poſſeſs theſe ſouls, which by their baptiſm were dedicated to thee, to be thy eternal temple?

O Father of lights, and God of all truth, purge the whole world from all errors, abuſes, corruptions and vices. Beat down the ſtandard of ſatan, and ſet up every where the ſtandard of Chriſt. Aboliſh the reign of ſin, and eſtabliſh the kingdom of grace in all hearts. Let humility triumph over pride and ambition: Charity over hatred, envy and malice: Purity and temperance over luſt and exceſs: Meekneſs over paſſion, and diſintereſtedneſs and poverty of ſpirit over covetouſneſs and love of this periſhable world. Let the Goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt, both in its belief and practice, prevail throughout all the univerſe.

Grant to us thy peace, O Lord, in the days of our mortality, even that peace which thy Son bequeathed as a legacy to his disciples: a perpetual peace with thee; a perpetual peace with one another; and a perpetual peace within ourselves. Grant all christian princes and states may love, cherish and maintain an inviolable peace among themselves. Give them a right sense of the dreadful evils that attend on wars. Give them an everlasting horror of all that bloodshed, of the devastations and ruin of so many territories; of the innumerable sacrileges; and the eternal loss of so many thousand souls, as are the dismal consequences of war. Turn their hearts to another kind of warfare: teach them to fight for a heavenly kingdom.

Remove, O Lord, thy wrath, which we have reason to apprehend actually hanging over our heads for our sins. Deliver all christian people from the dreadful evil of mortal sin; make all sinners sensible of their misery; give them the grace of a sincere conversion to thee, and a truly penitential spirit; and discharge them from all their bonds. Preserve all Christendom; and in particular this nation, from all the evils that threaten impenitent sinners, such as plagues, famines, earthquakes, fires, inundations, mortality of cattle, sudden and unprovided death, and thy many other judgments here, and eternal damnation hereafter. Comfort all that are under any affliction, sickness, or violence of pain: support all that are under temptation: reconcile all that are at variance;

variance; deliver all that are in ſlavery or captivity; defend all that are in danger: grant a relief to all in their reſpective neceſſities: give a happy paſſage to all that are in their agony. Grant thy bleſſing to our friends and benefactors, and to all thoſe for whom we are particularly bound to pray; and have mercy on all our enemies. Give eternal reſt to all the faithful departed; and bring us all to everlaſting life, through Jeſus Chriſt thy Son. *Amen.*

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